



Issue 16



Peterhouse



Peterhouse issue 16
The year in review 2014–2015

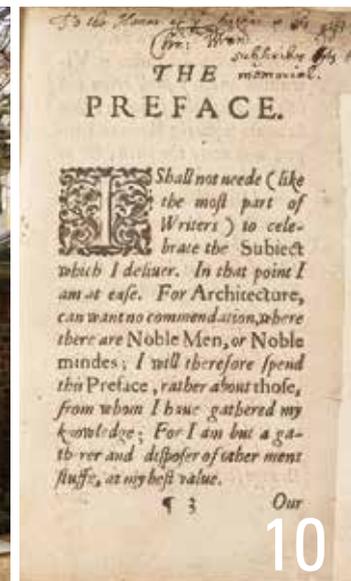
<i>The Master Writes</i>	3
<i>HSPS</i>	5
<i>The Royal Opening</i>	6
<i>Recent research appointments</i>	8
<i>Year in pictures</i>	10
<i>Peterhouse Society</i>	12

On the cover

HRH the Prince of Wales opens the Whittle Building

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06
HRH The Prince of Wales arrives
at Peterhouse for the opening of
the Whittle Building

10
Wotton's 'Elements of Architecture'

The Master Writes

It seems only a day or two ago that Anne and I moved into the magnificent Master's Lodge. It was a huge privilege and a great honour to be elected by my fellow Fellows and over the last seven and a half years we have both worked hard to try to rise to the challenge.

One of the real joys of the Mastership has been getting to know all groups of Petreans really well. This starts with the undergraduates who come over to the Lodge for lunch during their first year, all slightly nervous about their new environment. It is always a great thrill to watch them flourish collectively during their time in Peterhouse while they pursue various activities in clubs, sports, societies, etc. Of course as well as play, they work hard too and it has been gratifying to see the examination results in College improve over the past few years. The Directors of Studies and the Tutors deserve a lot of credit too! Finally, with their families, we watch these students graduate after three or (now increasingly) four years as confident members of society.

It has been a matter of pride to watch the vibrant graduate community enlarge and prosper under the auspices of the Graduate Tutors and a highly energetic Tutor for Graduate Affairs. The Graduate Symposium on a Saturday in November has become a very professional affair and is now one of the highlights of the College calendar. So much so that we encourage one or two of these Graduate speakers to talk to returning Petreans at the annual Gathering in the summer.

We are blessed to have the resources to attract some of the brightest Research Fellows to our community. It has been



rewarding to see so many of them move rapidly on to good positions in Universities at home and abroad. An innovation has been the introduction of Research Associates, designed to offer a Collegiate home to outstanding postdoctoral workers who do so much to drive the research engine of the University. They also bring a new perspective into our community.

Our excellent Fellowship has only expanded slightly in size, but notably in breadth with the arrival of several distinguished Professors. These new but senior recruits not only share our Founder's aims (now distilled into the College's statutory purpose: 'the advancement of education, religion, learning and research') but they also practice what they preach by still being prepared to teach

**It has been a matter of pride to watch
the vibrant graduate community enlarge
and prosper.**

undergraduates! There is no room in a small College for non-contributors. If Sir Aaron Klug went on teaching Natural Science students for many years after winning his Nobel Prize, there is little excuse for anyone else. Even the current Head of the Cavendish Laboratory still continues to teach undergraduates!

But a real and somewhat unexpected bonus of being in this post has been the friendship that we have received from all Petreans, whether young or old. To watch people returning to their alma mater with pride, love and enthusiasm for the College makes the hard work provided by all our wonderful staff really worthwhile. Whether it is because of the welcome offered by the Porters, the fine food and wine in Hall or the beauty of the surroundings, the enthusiasm of returning alumni is palpable and it encourages everyone in College to maintain and improve things year-on-year. We are blessed in having such dedicated staff.

Speaking of surroundings, the fantastic generosity of Petreans over the years has allowed us to restore and refurbish St Peter's Terrace, the William Stone building, the Hall, the Music Room (now M staircase), and Fen Court and to put up the magnificent Whittle building, named in honour of Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle. We all much enjoyed the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales for the opening ceremony in February. It was remarkable that all this work could occur without us having to tap into the College's endowments. Thank you, one and all, for making it possible. I was just fortunate to be in the right place at the right time for the new building to happen during my watch. However it has given me much pleasure and pride to observe these changes taking place in real time.

Talking about real-time, the innovations in my own areas of radiological research have been breathtaking over the last decade and it is a matter of some sadness that I no longer watch these innovations quite so closely. I felt that I had to relinquish the clinical phase of my medical career as various administrative roles increased. But at least the Editorial role that I pursued

during my tenure contributed to the finances of the College! Furthermore, editing a journal gave me great insight into the history of the development of techniques such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Some of you may have already heard my not all that 'economical with the truth' commentary that MRI would not have been possible without the contributions of Peterhouse scientists. We needed Henry Cavendish for his discovery of hydrogen and Charles Babbage for his difference engine. Superconducting magnets required the contribution of Lord Kelvin for determining the correct value of the lower limit of temperature (-273.15 degree Celsius). Next we needed Sir James Dewar and his vacuum flask to keep things cold. Then we required some more modern mathematics to analyse the images: the construction of CT and MRI images is not

all that dissimilar to the analysis of x-ray crystallography (which we owe to Messrs, Kendrew, Klug and Perutz). Finally we needed to get the heavy magnets and other kit transported around the world in Sir Frank Whittle's jets!

As I write these closing words, I am about to undergo the first of my encounters with an orthopaedic surgeon. Meanwhile, the Fellowship is immersed in the process of electing my successor. I am confident that everyone will continue to provide the same fantastic support for the next Master and partner that Anne and I have so much appreciated during my tenure. Thereafter, with University matters taking me to Hong Kong and, increasingly, home to Ireland, we will much enjoy watching the College continue to flourish from a respectful distance, albeit based in Cambridge!



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HSPS

The Human, Social and Political Tripos at Cambridge University

In the course of this academic year Governing Body, on the recommendation of the Education Committee, took the decision to start accepting undergraduate applications in HSPS for the academic year 2017–18.

In 2011 the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology was merged with the Faculty of Politics, Psychology, Sociology and International Studies to form the Faculty of Human, Social, and Political Science (HSPS). The new tripos, designed to serve both students with a clear commitment to one discipline and those who want a broader multidisciplinary degree, was complex so the College decided to give it time to get established. We were concerned that students studying in this area in Peterhouse would not be well served without a Fellow and a resident Director of Studies. Regrettably, therefore, the College has not accepted undergraduate applications in archaeology in the past few years. The reason to delay admitting undergraduates still further was two-fold. 2016 will be the first year of the new A-Level syllabi so it seemed prudent not to combine the inevitable uncertainties of that with our first intake of HSPS students. Governing Body also agreed that the College should look to appoint two new Fellows to cover the range of teaching and expertise required by the new Tripos – and doing so would take time.

In view of the College's long line of distinguished archaeologists it was particularly pleasing that the first of the new Fellows to be identified was Dr John Robb, then Reader and now Professor in European Prehistory at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. He was formally admitted to the Fellowship at the first meeting of Governing Body in Michaelmas 2015. We look forward to continuing the tradition of Peterhouse as a strong archaeology College with his help.

The College is equally fortunate at the other end of the HSPS Tripos with the establishment of the Forum of Geopolitics and Grand Strategy at Cambridge under the leadership of Professor Brendan Simms with the assistance of our Research Fellow,



A Forum sponsored lecture at Pembroke College.

“The principal challenges facing western democracies today come from expansionist powers, for example Vladimir Putin’s Russia and the Caliphate of ISIS in the Middle East. Diagnosing and dealing with these threats requires us to break with the recent emphasis on ‘transnational’ solutions, ‘networks’ and ‘interdependence’ and return to the classic themes of geopolitics and state formation. The Centre of Geopolitics and Grand Strategy creates a space for truly innovative and interdisciplinary collaboration and impactful contribution to some of the most important debates of our times.”

Professor Brendan Simms,
Fellow of Peterhouse and Professor of the
History of European International Relations

Dr Charles Laderman. The core disciplinary focus of this Forum is the history and politics of the state system, supported by expertise in a number of cognate areas including international history, international economics, and the geopolitics of race and religion. To date, the Forum has hosted an exciting programme of events, a number of them at Peterhouse.

It is hoped that, over time, the Forum will develop into a full-fledged Centre. The aim of the Centre will be to provide rigorous training in international affairs, military history, and geo-strategic thinking and to develop world-class strategic thinkers and decision-makers who understand how to calculate risk and recognise opportunity within the appropriate historical and contextual perspectives. In recent years, centres for the study of geopolitics and grand strategy have sprung up across the United States, often pioneered by British scholars. However, there is not yet anything similar in Britain or the rest of Europe. This absence has had a detrimental impact on the policy making process in Britain and across the world. Studying the past clearly provides us with tools to unravel the complex dynamics of how policy is made and implemented in the present. The Forum will provide tangible academic outputs that facilitate a more informed public debate on crucial geopolitical issues facing us today – for example the rise in racial and religiously motivated extremism, the ‘Brexit’ dilemma, and the question of the West’s relationship with Russia. Peterhouse is delighted to support this initiative and we are looking to appoint a teaching Fellow in this area.

The Royal opening

On Monday 23 February the College was delighted to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales to open the Whittle Building. Comprising 23 student rooms, a new bar, new JCR and new Gym the building significantly enhances student facilities. The Fellows Set on the top floor is currently reserved for Visiting Fellows.





Clockwise from left: HRH The Prince of Wales arrives in Peterhouse with Sir Hugh Duberley, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire; Students at the windows in Old Court (top left) elicit a wave from the Royal visitor (bottom right); The JCR President Johanna Ohlman and her predecessor George Thomas are presented to The Prince of Wales in the new JCR. HRH The Prince of Wales looks at photographs of the construction with the architect, John Simpson, Professor Watkin and Sir David Wright; The Master reminded The Prince of Wales of the last time HRH was in Peterhouse while a student.



Recent research appointments



RESEARCH FELLOWS

This year we appointed just two Research Fellows – Dr David Tourigny (Mathematics) and Dr Charlie Laderman (History). The College normally aims to appoint two JRFs – one in sciences and one in arts. The appointment of an additional Research Fellow in Physics last year was made possible by the generosity of Fraser Howie (m. 1989).

David has come to us from Trinity and his research combines mathematics and molecular biology. He writes: “I use geometric and topological methods to study protein-protein interaction and gene regulatory networks appearing in molecular biology. This often involves a direct application to computational biology, but I am also working on geometric problems that originate in mathematical models describing these processes.”

FROM THE LEFT TO RIGHT

Dr Charlie Laderman (History)
Dr Pieter Desnerck (Engineering)
Dr Penny Karanasou (Engineering)
Dr Joshua Einsle (Earth Sciences)
Dr David Tourigny (Molecular
Biology, Applied Mathematics)

Sharp-eyed readers of the Newsletter will have spotted that Charlie Laderman featured in last year's photograph as well! Charlie's research focuses on 19th- and 20th-century America and its relations with the wider world, with an emphasis on the intersection between U.S. and International History, the interconnection between U.S. foreign policy and domestic politics, and the relationship between imperialism, humanitarianism and liberal internationalism. Over the past year, he has also been working with Professor Brendan Simms to establish the Forum on Geopolitics.

Sam Rose, appointed last year, has been helping with Peterhouse's contribution to the Public Catalogue Foundation's efforts to record the collections of paintings in the University and the Colleges. Photographs and details of Peterhouse's paintings are expected to go up on the BBC Your Paintings website in early 2016, with a book to follow.

COLLEGE RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

In January our existing College Research Associates were joined by:

Dr Pieter Desnerck (Civil Engineering)
Dr Joshua Einsle (Physics)
Dr Penny Karanasou
(Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Dr Gemma Lewis (Psychology)
Dr Joerg Starzmann
(Mechanical Engineering)

Pieter Desnerck is a member of the Concrete and Composites Structures Group associate within the Department of Engineering with expertise in reinforced concrete and recent advances in concrete technology. He is currently working on an EPSRC funded project dealing with the assessment of reinforced concrete half-joint structures (and bridges in particular). A half joint is a particular type of structure – within the existing UK Highways Agency network alone there are 400+ concrete bridges with half joints. They have specific advantages with respect to ease of construction, but a major disadvantage is that there are problems associated with leakage through the joint. Half joint details have come under intense scrutiny since the collapse of a section of the de la Concorde Overpass in Quebec, Canada in 2006 in which five people were killed and six others injured. A key challenge is to understand the lessons to be learned from the Concorde Overpass collapse, and the inherent vulnerabilities in half joint structures. Pieter's research provides improved analytical tools and experimental evidence for the more accurate assessment of half-joint structures, and will inform the management strategy for half-joint structures throughout the UK. The outcomes of this project are therefore of national and international importance.

Penny Karanasou comes to us from LIMSI-CNRS and University Paris-Sud. She is a Research Associate in the Speech Group working on speech recognition and speech processing in the Machine Intelligence Laboratory of the Cambridge University Engineering Department. A principal topic of her work has been the speaker adaptation of deep neural network acoustic models using i-vectors. For her Ph.D. she worked on pronunciation modelling for automatic speech recognition. In the summer of 2011,

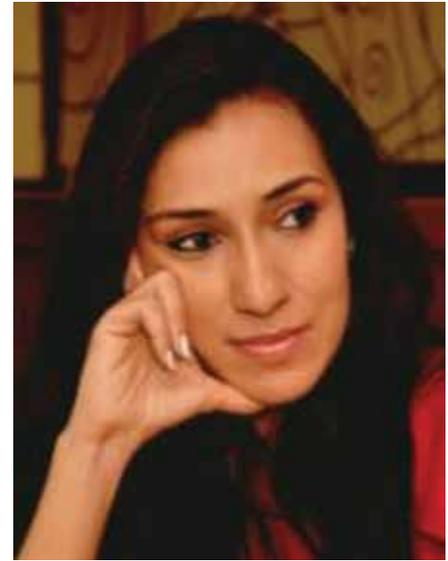
she was a research intern in the SRI International's STAR laboratory where she developed a discriminative framework for improving a keyword-spotting system. Her research interests lie in the areas of machine learning, speech recognition and natural language processing.

Gemma Lewis is working with Professor Ian Goodyear on a project funded by the Friends of Peterhouse from money specifically donated to them to support research into bi-polar disorder in young people. The fund also currently supports a Ph.D. student at Peterhouse. This year Gemma has focused on associations between pubertal development and the emergence of depression (symptom and clinical level) in adolescents aged 14 to 17: an important period for depression during which incidence rises, especially for girls. Pubertal changes are thought to account, in part, for this gender difference which persists throughout reproductive years. She recently presented her findings on puberty and depression at the International Federation for Psychiatric Epidemiology conference in Bergen, Norway and submitted a review of findings from the 'ROOTS study of adolescent mental health' for the Journal – Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. She has also worked with colleagues on other projects designed to inform the aetiology and prevention of adolescent depression.

As the scheme continues it is interesting to note that the overwhelming majority of applicants are scientists. This reflects the reality in the academic world that funding and research opportunities are easier to obtain in the sciences. We are therefore delighted that some of our Honorary College Research Associates are in the arts!

NEW FELLOWS

Maintaining the teaching strength and quality of the Fellowship is a core priority for the College. It has a significant impact on the performance of our undergraduates which further enhances our reputation. As Dr Munday, the College's long-serving Fellow in Law, approaches retirement the need to secure good teaching for the next generation of law students is a concern. We were therefore delighted when we were able to appoint Dr Antara Haldar to the Fellowship. Antara Haldar came to us from Columbia University and is University Lecturer in Empirical Legal Studies. She holds degrees in both law and economics –



Dr Antara Haldar

and was educated at St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Trinity College, Cambridge and Columbia University. She specializes in law and development, law and economics, and legal theory – and is particularly interested in the area lying at the intersection of the three fields. Her work spans the topics of microfinance and other credit markets, land titling and property rights, the relationship between formal and informal law (including the role of trust) and evolutionary institutional dynamics as well as issues of race and gender.

Mathematics is an increasing strength in the College – we have a large number of excellent applicants and this year Pablo Boixeda who graduated as Second Wrangler in 2014 came top in Part III. As discussed in the last issue of this Newsletter, Pure Mathematics is ably covered by Dr Andras Zsak and we were very pleased to appoint Dr Anders Hansen to cover the needs of our Applied Mathematicians. In the course of the year Dr Anders Hansen was appointed to a prestigious Chair of Mathematics at the University of Oslo and so had to reduce his commitment to Peterhouse to that of a Bye Fellow – we are naturally delighted with his success and wish him well.

The year in pictures



THE DEER PARK IN SPRING

A sight often missed by undergraduates in the past, the daffodils in the Deer Park are enjoyed by increasing numbers of students as they stay up to work in the Easter vacation.

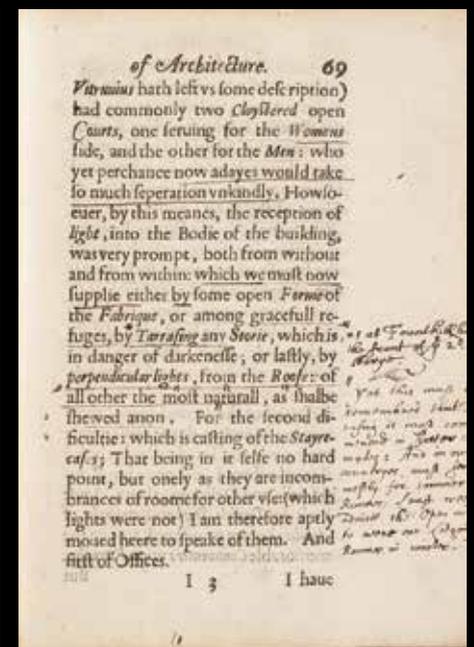
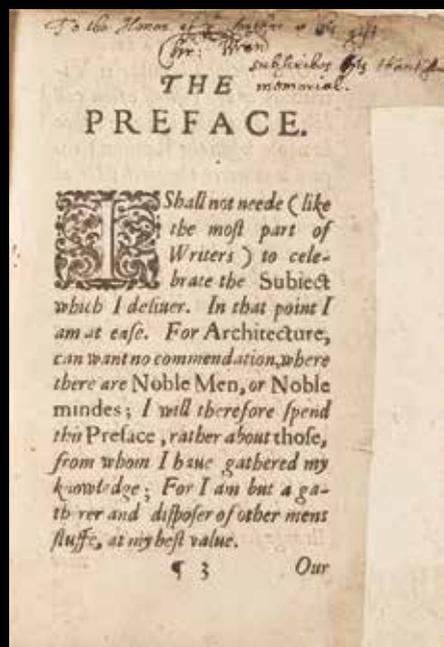
FORUM ON GEOPOLITICS

In May last year, the bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo, Professor Brendan Simms gave a lecture on the battle entitled 'Waterloo: the first NATO operation?' in which he described the key role played by the 400 men who defended the farm of La Haye Sainte against Napoleon's forces that day. Here he is being introduced by former Master Lord Wilson. The lecture was one of a series presented by the Forum on Geopolitics jointly sponsored by Peterhouse and POLIS.



SIR HENRY WOTTON'S ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURE

The College was very pleased to be able to purchase, thanks to the generosity of a number of Petreans, a most interesting copy of Sir Henry Wotton's *Elements of Architecture* (1624). This is the first English treatise on classical architecture and is a presentation copy from the author to Dean Christopher Wren. Dean Wren took his doctorate in theology at Peterhouse and was the Fellows' choice as Master in 1635, although the king had other ideas, so we got John Cosin. He was the father of the yet more celebrated architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Dean Wren may have been involved in the design of the Peterhouse Chapel and we have just been given, thanks to the kindness of Mark Slater, a large and fine 17th c. portrait of him. The Wotton book is made especially interesting by the wealth of marginal annotations by Dean Wren including actual diagrams of buildings, chimneys, roofs and gardens that he designed in the 1630s. Assuming that the architect Sir Christopher Wren took at least part of his enthusiasm for the classical style from his father, then this book is one of the most important conduits through which those ideas came first to Wren senior and thence to his son.





E-LUMINATE CAMBRIDGE

In February the College was part of the e-Luminate Cambridge Festival. Over the course of a week buildings throughout the city were lit up in various ways.

THE MAY BALL

The May Ball was a splendid occasion – the Committee had transformed the College and the use of the Combination Room as a private bar for returning Petreans was an interesting innovation. The success of the event combined with the Tripos results of the Committee was sufficient to prompt the Governing Body to permit the Ball to take place every two rather than every three years. It was also agreed to change the day of the Ball to a Friday so we hope that even more returning Petreans will be able to attend. The next May Ball will be in 2017.



BOAT CLUB NEWS

In the course of the year the Boat Club purchased a heavyweight four and a new eight. The four – seen rowing past the Boathouse with Frank Suess in bow as the eight is being launched – was named after Frank Suess, the long time coach and supporter to the Boat Club. The eight was named The Dixons in honour of the Master and Mrs Dixon whose support and enthusiasm for rowing and indeed for all sports in College has been such a feature of his Mastership.





The Peterhouse Society 2015

The Annual Gathering, Saturday 27 June 2015

The 2015 Gathering repeated its format of previous years, with returning Petreans enjoying a programme of tours, lectures and talks, followed by the Peterhouse Society Annual dinner in Hall. Accommodation was also available, allowing guests to take full advantage of their weekend in Cambridge.

2016 will be the Master's final Gathering before his retirement. Scheduled for Saturday 25 June 2016, more information, along with a booking form is enclosed with the Newsletter.

Peterhouse Family Day, Sunday 20 September 2015

Peterhouse once again opened its doors to Petreans and their families for the third Family Day at the College. There was plenty of entertainment to keep the young crowd happy, including circus skills in Upper Hall, mask painting in the Combination Room and a fantastic science show in the Hall, with a very slimy finale, much to the delight of the children (perhaps not so for parents). The wonderful September weather meant afternoon tea could be enjoyed outside, along with a game or two of croquet.

The next Peterhouse Family day will take place in 2017, dates to be confirmed.



Peterhouse Development

The Golf Day

The third Peterhouse Golf Day was arranged by Paula Vanninen (matric. 1987) and took place on Friday 29 May at the Royal Worlington Golf Club near Newmarket. Despite the poor weather conditions it was a most enjoyable occasion. The competition was followed by dinner in College hosted by the Master. Plans are in place for a repeat event in 2016. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the Development Office



Lord Thomas of Gresford, Chairman of the Peterhouse Society Committee

After the sad loss of Michael Burrell in 2014, we were fortunate that Lord Thomas of Gresford (matric. 1955) was able to take over the role of Chairman of the Peterhouse Society Committee. Lord Thomas has had a long and illustrious political career and was made a Life Peer in 1996. Lord Thomas is also one of the most respected and experienced QCs in England and Wales. His practice has involved him in more than 250 homicide trials and appeals in England and Wales. Lord Thomas is also a member of Voces Petrensium and a keen rower.

Boat Club London Drinks, Thursday 5 February 2015

The Development Office and Peterhouse Boat Club hosted a drinks evening in London on Thursday 5 February. It was a wonderful opportunity for 'Boaties' spanning almost 60 years of Boat Club history to meet and share stories and memories of their time rowing at the College. We hope that this will become an annual event and look forward to seeing more Petreans there next year



The Telephone Campaign

This year the annual telephone campaign raised almost £148,000. The money raised was divided between Graduate Studentships, Student Hardship, the Chapel and Organ renovation, and College Libraries. As a result of the generosity of Petreans the College was able to provide studentships to an additional 3 MPhil students and one Ph.D. student. We were also able to purchase a most interesting book on architecture by Sir Henry Wootton annotated by Dean Christopher Wren (see p. 10 for further details).

The 1284 Circle

There are a number of Petreans who give annual amounts in excess of £1284 so this year we created the 1284 Circle as a means of thanking them for their generous support. Membership is open to anyone for the year in which their donations total over £1,284. This year members were invited to a lunch in College and they have had preferential booking for the visit to a private Art Collection in February 2016, the second Wine Tasting Dinner in the House of Lords to be held in April, and the Thomas Gray event in Stoke Poges in July 2016.

William Stone Society

The William Stone Society was set up to thank those who have chosen to remember the College in their wills. It is named in honour of William Stone whose magnificent bequest in 1959 served to transform the College. Members and their spouses or partners are invited to an annual event in College hosted by the Master. Donations to the College between 1 October 2014 and 30 September 2015 this year totalled almost £193,000. We are delighted that in several cases we were able to establish funds named in honour of the donors. One of these is the Crosthwait Fund which will provide financial support for graduate students in the Arts with a preference for History. Bequests are a very helpful source of income for the College and can enable donors to do something they would have had difficulty doing in their lifetimes.

Peterhouse